

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with David T. Yang on 4/4/2008.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

In Claim 1, the paragraph

"An electronic apparatus that is capable of performing a plurality of processes on digital data, said plurality of processes including a specific process, the execution of which is restricted in advance, comprising:"

has been changed to

--An electronic apparatus for performing a plurality of processes on digital data, said plurality of processes including a specific process, the execution of which is restricted in advance, comprising:--

In Claim 1, the paragraph

"a function-setting section that sets a specific function for removing restriction on the execution of the specific process when the user indicates an acceptance to the contents of the message, notifies the user of a warning message informing the user that

the copying of the digital data is permitted solely for personal use, and records information indicative of the setting of the set specific function to the received removable recording medium, said function-setting section sets the specific function upon the user inputting an instruction for setting the specific function;"

has been changed to

--a function-setting section that sets a specific function for removing restriction on the execution of the specific process when the user indicates an acceptance to the contents of the message, notifies the user of a warning message informing the user that the copying of the digital data is permitted solely for personal use, and records information indicative of the setting of the set specific function to the mounted removable recording medium, said function-setting section sets the specific function upon the user inputting an instruction for setting the specific function;--

In claim 11, the paragraph

"A data recording method for an electronic apparatus that is capable of performing a plurality of processes on digital data, said plurality of processes including a specific process, the execution of which is restricted in advance, the data recording method comprising steps of:"

has been changed to

--A data recording method for an electronic apparatus for performing a plurality of processes on digital data, said plurality of processes including a specific process, the

execution of which is restricted in advance, the data recording method comprising steps of:--

In claim 12, the paragraph

"A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for executing data recording method for an electronic apparatus that is capable of performing a plurality of processes including a specific process, the execution of which is restricted in advance, the program comprising:"

has been changed to

--A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for executing data recording method for an electronic apparatus for performing a plurality of processes including a specific process, the execution of which is restricted in advance, the program comprising:--

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1, 5, 7 and 9-12 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The present invention is directed to an electronic apparatus which once makes a user conscious of copyright of digital data, when the user records the digital data, allows the user to use the digital data without annoying him any longer concerning the copyright of digital data. According to the invention, when an instruction on the specific process is given by the user, a message calling the user's attention concerning the

specific process is notified to the user, and through notification of this message, the setting of the special function is enable. When the specific recording is set, according to the set specific function, the restriction on the execution of the specific process is removed, and at the same time, the function of the notification section is disabled.

Therefore, once the user's consciousness of handling of the digital data to be subjected to the specific process is confirmed, and even when the specific function is subsequently set, the message is no longer notified to the user (Specification).

Accordingly, if the user should remove the storage medium and insert another one, the restriction will be reapplied (unless the user had previously accepted the copyright message of the replacement medium) (Remarks dated 1/24/08, page 8). These unique features are recited in claims 1, 11 and 12. The closest prior arts, Ogino (6,433,946), Kato (5,953,529), Sugiyama et al. (6,744,588), and Kori et al. (6,687,802) fail to anticipate or render the above limitations obvious.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minh Dieu Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-272-3873.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Emmanuel Moise can be reached on 571-272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Minh Dieu Nguyen/
Temporary Full Signatory, Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2137
4/10/08